

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /026 W

----- 079167

R 240600Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 474

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO JA

AMCONGEN OSAKA KOBE JA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJ: KAGOSHIMA BID FOR JAPAN-TAIWAN AIR SERVICE TERMINUS

NISHI NIHON SHIMBUN REPORTED THAT GOVERNOR SUBURO KANEMARU OF KAGOSHIMA

PREFECTURE CALLED ON CABINET SECRETARY IDE ON JULY 18TH WITH STRONG REQUEST THAT KAGOSHIMA BE JAPAN TERMINUS OF JAPAN-TAIWAN AIR SERVICE (WHATEVER FORM IT EVENTUALLY TAKES). KANEMARU LATER REPEATED THIS HOP E

AT NEWS CONFERENCE. TAIWAN APPARENTLY WANTS ENTRY INTO FUKUOKA VERY MUCH, BUT FUKUOKA, WHICH (LIKE SEVERAL OTHER CITIES IN WESTERN JAPAN),

CONSIDERS ITSELF LOGICAL GATEWAY TO MAINLAND, RELUCTANT TO ACCEDE. ALTHOUGH NEWSPAPER REPORTS FUKUOKA PREFECTURE AS MAJOR OBSTACLE TO TAIWAN'S WISHES, WE FEEL FAIRLY SURE CITY IS REAL HANG UP. FUKUOKA

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DEPUTY MAYOR RYUSUKE TAKEDA TOLD PRESS LAST WEEK THAT TAIWAN WANTED TO USE FUKUOKA'S ITAZUKE AS ENTRY INTO JAPAN, BUT THAT IF IT HURT RELATIONS WITH MAINLAND, CITY WOULD BE "IN VERY DIFFICULT POSITION." OFFICIAL OF CITY'S INTERNATIONAL SECTION TOLD US JULY 22 THAT FUKUOKA'S SISTER CITY AFFILIATION WITH CANTON WAS MAIN PROBLEM.

FUKUOKA PREFECTURE'S GOVERNOR KAMEI HAS PASSED BUCK TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. WHEN QUESTIONED BY SOCIALIST PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLYMAN ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREFECTURE'S STANCE IN MATTER, KAMEI SAID HE WAS BASICALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH DEPUTY MAYOR TAKEDA'S STATEMENT, BUT, IN ANY CASE, MATTER HAS TO BE DECIDED BY JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, NOT FUKUOKA PREFECTURE.

KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURAL OFFICIAL CONFIRMED GIST OF GOVERNOR KANEMARU'S STATEMENT TO US. REASONS GOVERNOR WANTS TAIWAN AIR SERVICE SO MUCH IS FAIRLY SIMPLE, HE SAID. IN ADDITION TO OBVIOUS TOURIST BENEFITS, GOVERNOR IS VERY ANXIOUS TO ENHANCE KAGOSHIMA'S IMAGE AS INTERNATIONAL CITY AND TOURIST CENTER, HE TAKES ACTIVE, PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS, AND DISCUSSED AIR NAURU'S REQUEST FOR STOPOVER IN GUAM WITH AMBASSADOR IN MARCH. IN ADDITION TO TWO AIR NAURU FLIGHTS, KAGOSHIMA HAS TWO JAL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS TO HONG KONG WEEKLY. IF KANEMARU HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, KAGOSHIMA, IN SPITE OF ITS RATHER INCONVENIENT

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LOCATION, COULD VERY WELL BEAT OUT NAGOYA, OTHER PRINCIPAL
POSSIBILITY FOR STOP FOR JAPAN-TAIWAN AIR SERVICE.
RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR ROUTES, PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FUKUOK00095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-0293
From: FUKUOKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750723/aaaaauaf.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAGOSHIMA BID FOR JAPAN-TAIWAN AIR SERVICE TERMINUS NISHI NIHON SHIMBUN REPORTED THAT GOVERNOR SUBURO KANEMARU OF KAGOSHI
TAGS: EAIR, JA, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006